

Application No. 09/696,526
Amendment dated January 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated October 28, 2004

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 28, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.

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these dependent claims are also allowable. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections to dependent claims 4, 15, 24, 28, 29, 34-35.

Additionally, the Applicants respectfully bring to the Examiner's attention several instances of reference to *Schaff* within the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections. The Applicants' understanding, as previously provided, is that the Applicants' prior arguments with respect to the rejections of claims in view of *Schaff* were considered to be persuasive and all rejections pertaining thereto were withdrawn.

Applicants have left the Examiner several phone messages requesting a telephonic interview. It is Applicants' opinion that an interview would be extremely helpful in moving this case to allowance. To date, Applicants have not received a response to their interview request. Applicants would welcome the opportunity for a telephonic interview if amenable to the Examiner.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above Remarks and Claim Amendments, the Applicants submit that all pending claims in the instant application are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections is requested and allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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